Allocation of funds

*493. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total fund made available to the Ministry in the Budget 2008-09;

(b) the details of funds for SCs, OBCs, minorities, disabled, women and other vulnerable sections, section-wise; and

(c) whether the Ministry would be able to help all the above sections with the amount allocated by the Ministry of Finance?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) Rs. 2459 crore.

(b) Target Group/Activity-wise break up of the above outlay is as under:—

Sl.No.	Target Group/Sector	Outlay (Rs. in crore)
1.	Scheduled Castes	1826.7
2.	Other Backward Classes	2403
3.	Persons with Disabilities	2842
4.	Social Defence	92.7
5.	Secretariat	15.1
	TOTAL	2459.0

(c) The budget allocation is based on over all availability of resources and competing demands for funds from various sectors. Each Ministry is expected to utilize its budget allocation optimally.

Subsidies to power sector given by State Governments

*494. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state the total amount of direct and indirect subsidies being provided by various State Governments due to uneconomical power tariffs and to which sector?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): The Power Finance Corporation Ltd. publishes annual reports on the performance of State Power Utilities. The report covers State Power Utilities, State Power Departments and Private Distribution Companies created as a result of reform measures (i.e. the distribution companies of Delhi and Orissa) in all the States as well as in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union Territory of Puducherry. The Report covering the years 2003-04 to 2005-06 has been published.

This report indicates that the total amounts of subsidy received by various utilities from the State Governments in the years 2003-04,2004-05 and 2005-06 are rupees 10660 crores,

12014 crores and 10557 crores, respectively. The State-wise details of subsidies received by different State Power Utilities and distribution companies for these years are given in the Statement *(See* below).

According to reports from some State Governments, the subsidies are generally provided to categories of consumers in sectors such as agricultural, domestic and segment of industry.